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Smithsonian Art Exhibit and Rhode Island State House and Providence City Hall (1962): Memorandum 03

Sheila Schermerhorn

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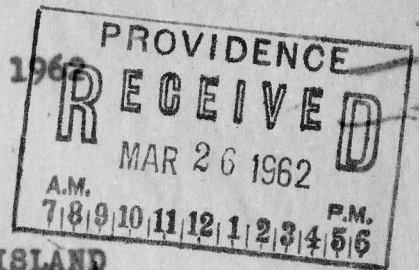
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MEMORANDUM

March 23, 1962



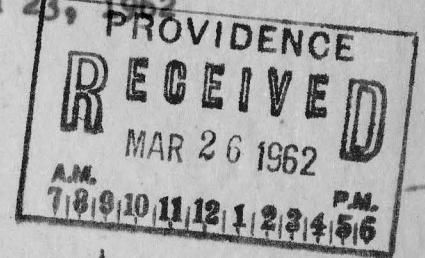
TO: SENATOR PELL
FROM: SHEILA SCHERMERHORN
RE: NATIONAL GALLERY EXHIBIT FOR RHODE ISLAND

Today I had lunch with Dr. Evans at the National Gallery, and afterwards we selected reproductions of 16 paintings by Italian masters. He asked that I assist him at some future date in picking out suitable frames although the choice is rather limited. He estimates roughly that the show should be prepared and boxed by about mid-May. On each frame there will be an identifying label and then there would be some separate mimeographed sheets with more descriptive material. He has asked that I work with him on this, especially as he presumes we would like to include a few words from you or about you. I assured him that for our part the Providence office would schedule the show. He suggested that the suitable length of time for this show in any one place would probably be about three weeks so it might be easiest to schedule it to arrive at each new place on the first of the month. Isabelle Leeds will approach equivalent institutions, probably libraries, in about 20 towns to see if they are interested. In the towns where they are not interested she will then look around to see who else might like to have the show. I suggest that you send a letter similar to the attached draft to Mr. Walker.

DRAFT LETTER

March 26, 1962

John Walker, Esq.
Director
National Gallery of Art
Washington 25, D.C.



Dear Mr. Walker:

It was a great pleasure to talk with you the other evening. I would like to say again that I find the proposal to circulate in Rhode Island reproductions of Italian paintings from the Gallery most stimulating. I think it would emphasize to the many people of Italian descent in my state that some of the best paintings in the world were produced by artists of the same background.

I have no doubt that it would be possible to circulate this collection widely throughout the state although ofcourse some of the details still have to be worked out.

In this connection, I understand that my assistant, Sheila Schermerhorn, has met with Dr. Evans and they have chosen about sixteen reproductions to be ready about mid-May.

Many thanks for making this exhibition possible; I feel that it is indeed a most worthwhile project.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

CP